

Gasconade County SWCD

July 2014



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It's Always Better to Ask First

It is always better to ask if you qualify for cost-share monies first and find out you don't qualify than to do a project and then find out that you would have qualified. We cannot provide funding, if a project has been started or completed before you get Board approval for cost-share. The State SWCD cost-share program is increasing its funding from \$27M to \$31M this next fiscal year, so there should be additional dollars provided to every district.

In FY14, we claimed \$89,548.39, which is 58% of our fiscal year allocation of \$154,408.00. We spent \$17,150.41 in the Sheet/Rill & Gully Resource Concern, \$57,181.59 in Grazing System Management Resource Concern, \$13,812.39 in the Woodland Erosion Resource Concern and \$1,404.00 in the Nutrient/Pest Management Resource Concern.

In FY15, our initial allocation will be \$89,680.00. If we have greater than 80% allocated by mid-September, it is possible to receive an additional supplement to each resource concern that meets that criteria and again in January. There is money available. We currently have a "worklist" for each concern and all state cost-share is based on first-come, first-served.

If you have an erosion or water quality concern or are interested in a grazing management program, please call our office and meet with our Technician, Kory Hubbard, to discuss your needs and see if you qualify for cost-share assistance. This is your tax dollars at work!

Our resource concern areas are: Sheet/Rill & Gully—active erosion issues on land addressed by pasture establishment/enhancement, terraces, diversions, ponds, etc.; Grazing Management—establishment of watering facilities, cross fencing, Lime and Legume overseedings; Sensitive Areas—address water quality concerns such as well closures, riparian forest buffers, spring developments, and stream bank erosion; and Woodland Protection—establishes fencing for access control on woodlands, ponds and streams.

Board of Supervisors:

Dennis Berger - Chairman
Michael Haeffner - Vice-Chairman
Matt Estes - Treasurer
Debra Nowack - Member
Matthew Herring - Secretary

District Staff:

Diana Mayfield - District Specialist II
Kory Hubbard - District Technician II

NRCS Staff:

Melinda Barch - District Conservationist
Braden Schmitz, Soil Conservationist
Amy Neier - Soil Conservation Technician

MDC STAFF:

Seth Barrioz, Private Lands Conservationist
Scott Williams, Fisheries Biologist
Aaron Holsapple - Forester

So call us *first* to see, if you qualify for cost-share assistance. If you don't qualify, we can still provide you with free technical assistance.

Visit us on the web at www.swcd.mo.gov/gasconade

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
Helping People Help the Land



Women in Agriculture Meeting

Be Well. Be Strong. Be Ag.

White Mule Winery

September 11, 2014, 4:30 p.m

***Guest Speakers: Charles Schlottach, White Mule Winery
Robin Adkison & April Adkison-Farmer,
River Bluff Farms***

***Activities: Local Vendors ★
Blood Pressure Screening ★
Winery & Bed and Breakfast Tour ★
Beef Brisket & Pork Loin Dinner ★***

Brought to you by the Osage, Maries, and Gasconade (OMG) Counties' Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and University of Missouri Extension.

Our mission is to promote pride and interest in agriculture. Our goal is to provide information and sources of support in a fun and social setting, which will enrich the personal and professional lives of women involved in the many facets of agriculture.

Cost of the event is \$5.00 per person and should be mailed with the attached registration form by **August 22nd**. For more information call Diana at 573-437-3478 x 3, Sandy at 573-422-3342, Angie at 573-897-2138 x 3 or Virginia at 573-437-2165.

Mail and make checks payable to: Maries County SWCD-WIA, 105 Parkway, Vienna, MO 65582

NAME _____ # ATTENDING _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Equipment Workshop & Farm Tour

When: September 19, 2014, 4 p.m.

**Where: Steve & Scott Hobein Farm
Little Bay Road**

Itinerary:

- ♦ Visit with Equipment Vendors
- ♦ Farm Tour (Grazing System, Solar Pump)
- ♦ Equipment demonstration
 - ♦ Rotowiper (herbicide applicator)
 - ♦ No-Till Drill
 - ♦ Fencing
- ♦ Dinner—Compliments of the District

Please call the GCSWCD at 573-437-3478 x 3 to make your reservations and to get directions to the farm.

*20th Annual
Missouri
Women in Agriculture
State Conference
Hannibal 2014*



"River Style"
Hannibal, Missouri
September 15-17, 2014

**Contact the Gasconade County Soil &
Water Conservation District for more
information!**

Tours include:

- ♦ URSA Farmers Cooperative—Canton
- ♦ BASF—Paymyra
- ♦ Rockcliffe Mansion—Hannibal
- ♦ Old Stone House Inn

Workshop Titles:

- ♦ Identifying & Managing Vegetable Diseases
- ♦ Financial Statement Fundamentals
- ♦ Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?
- ♦ Do You Have Clutter?
- ♦ Raised Bed Gardening
- ♦ Laughter "Just for the Health of It"
- ♦ Using Apps to Manage the Farm

Banquet Speaker—Dr. Jerry Crownover

Registration Cost is \$70

Hotel Accommodations at the Quality Inn & Suites,
120 Lindsey Drive Hwy 36

Hannibal, MO 63401 Phone: 573-221-4001

- ♦ Double queen beds \$94.95
- ♦ King bed \$84.95
- ♦ Suite \$109.95
- ♦ These reduced prices are good until August 18th!



New **Private Lands Conservationist**

Seth Barrioz is the Private Land Conservationist with the Missouri Department of Conservation and he will be covering Osage, Maries, and Gasconade Counties. He currently assists private landowners in achieving their habitat management goals that benefit forest, fish, and wildlife. Seth earned a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife management and a minor in Biology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He went on to earn his Master's degree at the University of Tennessee in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. His thesis focused on oak savanna restoration in the Mid-South. Before working for the Missouri Department of Conservation he worked for The Nature Conservancy as a Private Lands Coordinator in the Grand River Grasslands Conservation Opportunity Area. He currently lives in Jefferson City, MO, with his wife.



Turning Drought Stricken Fields to Lush Green Fields

By Seth Barrioz- Private Land Conservationist for Osage, Maries, and Gasconade Counties

Most everyone reading this had been affected by the recent droughty summers in some way or another. Those with cattle have likely been feeding hay or are grazing on the remnants of their fescue during those summer months. I've been driving around and seeing all those brown pastures providing no benefit to the livestock producers in Gasconade County. However, there is something that can be done to convert these brown fields to lush green native grasses that will provide better forage to cattle.

Byron Baker of Osage County is just one of the few landowners grazing on native grasses. Even in late July his field of native Eastern Gamagrass is still producing bright green and lush vegetation. It is a whole lot different than what Byron is seeing in his neighbor's burnt up fescue and brome pastures across the rest of mid-Missouri. About 10% of Byron's cattle farm is planted to Eastern Gamagrass and he wishes he had more of it this summer. He has 44 head of heifers on this little oasis that has already been hayed once this summer. He had "no idea of the potential" of his 4 year-old planting until the spigot was turned off on the spring and summer rains. He is now planning to convert another 43 acre of Eastern Gamagrass this winter because of the benefit that this grass has provided him and his cattle during this drought.

Eastern Gamagrass is a native warm-season grass that once was a staple of the native prairies that covered more than 15 million acres of Missouri. It can still be found in remnant prairies or roadsides and other idle areas. Once called the candy grass by early settlers, it must be managed to prevent livestock from grazing it out of a planting.

Another landowner has been haying Big Bluestem for 14 years with great success. He will burn the field, around March, every three years and applies a small amount of fertilizer (not turkey manure) every year. This 13 acre field was burned in March of 2011 and that summer produced 109 1000# round bales for a total of 4100# of forage per acre. Even during the severe 2012 drought he still produced 56 1000# bales on July 15th. Then in the summer of 2013, he produced 86 bales all on that small 13 acres. When asked if he is pleased with the benefits this grass gives his cattle, he responded that he was planting more acreage on his farm to further assist his cattle during the summer months.

Make Drought Tolerant Species a Priority – Native grasses, such as Big Bluestem, have been documented to grow roots to depths of 10 feet or more where bedrock is not limiting. Switchgrass, another native, produces almost four times the root biomass as Tall Fescue within the first year after planting. Over ten years, studies have shown that Switchgrass will produce about 5 tons per acre of root mass within the first 12 inches of the soil horizon. Such root systems, common to all of these tall-growing natives, make these the most drought-tolerant forage grasses that we grow here in Missouri.

Natives Produce Quality Summer Forage - Recent research at the University of Tennessee has demonstrated that cattle do well on these grasses during summer months, commonly posting gains of between 1.5 and 2.5 pounds per day on steers. Bred heifers typically gain between 1.0 and 1.5 pounds daily on these grasses. Blends of Big Bluestem and Indiangrass provide better daily gains, but Switchgrass and Gamagrass can support heavier stocking rates.

How Much Summer Forage is Enough? – Studies have indicated that about 30% of warm-season forages may be an appropriate level – perhaps more farther south and less farther north. Consider that 3 – 4 of the 9 – 10 grazing months we have in Missouri occur during the hot part of the year. Given the efficiency of native grasses, virtually all dedicated hay ground could be in these grasses. Regardless of the proper ratio, start small and evaluate your need for more summer grasses as you go.

Programs through your local Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA and the Department of Conservation can help defray some of the expenses of converting portions of your pastures or hayland to native grasses.

Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZQXF6Sq3o> for videos which provide basic instructions for establishing



Mike Gaskins, Shannon County, field of native grass (left field) has been hayed twice while his fescue field next to it has not been hayed this year due to the 2012 drought producing a poor stand of fescue.

Soil Health Opportunities

NRCS and MU Hosting Free Soil Health Expo August 13-14

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the University of Missouri are hosting a free Soil Health Exposition August 13-14. The exposition will be at MU's Bradford Research and Extension Center (4968 Rangeline Road), about six miles east of Columbia.

The two-day exposition will feature vendors, tours, demonstrations, and presentations by farmers who have successfully incorporated cover crops into their operations.

The exposition will feature an open admission, so participants may attend as few or as many of the sessions as they choose. Events will be occurring from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. Topics will include: climate variability; understanding soil data; economics of cover crops; cover cropping and improved infiltration; effects of Glyphosate on soil biology; the latest soil health field equipment; field demonstrations; soils exhibits; and soil pits and properties. Equipment and seed dealers also will be present. A detailed agenda will be available later.

The Keys to Soil Health

Soil Health Workshop Owensville, MO

**Friday, August 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Owensville VFW Hall, 604 West Jefferson Avenue**



This workshop will give basic knowledge of how soil works and how management practices affect the services that soil provides. Knowing the secrets to your soil will help you determine the practices that best fit your farm and your management goals.

Topics include:

- ⇒ Integration of livestock and cover crops
- ⇒ Rotational grazing effects on soil health
- ⇒ Developing cover crop mixes and adjusting rotations to utilize cover crops
 - ⇒ Bring two dried soil samples to analyze, 1 fence row and 1 field
- ⇒ Cost to benefit ratios of management practices to improve soil health
- ⇒ Farming to improve organic matter and soil water retention
- ⇒ Improving crop nutrient availability through improvement of soil health

**Brought to you by the University of Missouri Bradford Research Center
Sponsored by NRCS**

\$10 Registration to cover lunch and snacks

Deadline: August 8, 2014

Make checks payable to "Soil Health Workshop"

Send to Jill Staples, Soil Health Workshop, MU-BREC, 4968 Rangeline Road, Columbia, MO 65201

Name: _____

Attending: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Owensville Workshop

Gasconade County SWCD

314 Olive Street
Owensville, MO 65066
(573) 437-3478 ext. 3
FAX: (573) 437-4771

STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Owensville, MO
Permit No. 8

Dates to Remember 2014

August 5	Board Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
August 22	UME & NRCS Soil Health Workshop, Page 7
September 1	Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
September 2	Board Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
September 4-5	Tri-County Grazing School
September 11	OMG AgriPride Women in Ag Meeting, Page 2
September 15-17	State Women in Ag Conference, Page 3
September 19	Equipment Workshop, Page 3
October 1-2	Annual 4th Grade Field Days—Kurrelmeyer Farm
October 7	Board Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
October 13	Columbus Day Holiday, Office Closed
October 14&16	River Relief Project, Hermann
November 4	Board Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.
November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday, Office Closed
November 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday, Office Closed
December 2	Board Mtg, Farm Bureau Mtg Rm, 6 p.m.
Dec 10-12	Annual Training Conference, SWCD Staff unavailable
December 25	Christmas Day Holiday, Office Closed
January 1, 2015	New Years Day Holiday, Office Closed
January 6	Board Mtg, USDA Service Center, 6:30 p.m.

Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

**LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE ON FILE AT THE
SWCD OFFICE BEFORE EQUIPMENT CAN BE
RENTED.**

Drill charge: Minimum charge of \$100.00 for less than 10 acres usage. An additional \$10.00 will be charged for each additional acre under 50 acres. There will be an \$9.00 per acre charge for 50 acres or more.

For Scheduling of equipment, please call the SWCD office at 573-437-3478 ext 3, unless other wise indicated.

◇ John Deere 10 ft no-till drill is located at James Miller, Second Creek Farms, 2828 Hwy 19 Owensville. Call 573-529-2507 to schedule.

◇ Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with warm season box is located at the SWCD office.

Vehicle insurance cards must be provided!

Located at the SWCD Office:

- ◇ Rotowiper - \$25 a day
- ◇ Burn Equipment - \$50 deposit, \$10 use charge
- ◇ ATV Equipment (Seeder, Sprayer, Disk) - \$100 deposit, \$20 a day each piece or \$50 for all three
- ◇ ATV Warm Season Grass Seeder—no charge—Donated by Quail Unlimited
- ◇ Soil Probe - no charge